Demolition of the old Ernakulam High School buildings.

78. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they intend demolishing the old Ernakulam High School buildings;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what is the reason for doing so?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) It is considered desirable to do so. But this will wait till funds permit.

(b) The existing building requires costly improvements. Instead of spending money on it, it is desirable to demolish it and to have it reconstructed to suit the general design of the main College block.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether this building is not a comparatively new one?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is not an old building.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is it on architectural considerations that it is considered desirable to pull down these buildings?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The answer to question No. 78 is very clear. The existing building requires costly improvements. Before spending any money on such improvements it is thought desirable to pull down the building and reconstruct it. Architectural consideration is one of them.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether this reconstruction of the building is one in the scheme of the College extension?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is not in the original scheme.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What does the Government expect to spend for this reconstruction?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Cannot this demolition lie over for two or three years?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—When was the existing building constructed?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—23 years ago.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is the present High School building that is being newly constructed is complete?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No; it is not complete.

Mr. E Ikkanda Warriar.—What would be the approxi-

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mate cost on completion? Already we have spent Rs. 96,910—5—5.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—To complete the building another 30,000 would be required.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is the land acquisition over?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Are there any cases for enhanced land value pending in court?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know whether the proposed reconstruction is absolutely necessary for completing the extension of the College buildings?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is absolutely necessary to improve the building. But the demolition is not absolutely necessary.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Does the University recommend the demolition of that building?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—What are the costly improvements which you propose to make on the building?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Some of the walls have to be reconstructed; the building has to be remodelled; and the stair case has to be improved.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—What is the wrong with the existing stair case?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is too steep and narrow.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Are they not used by children?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is possible.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether any connection has been established between the new block of buildings recently constructed and the one that is proposed to be demolished?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—At what cost?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It may be about 500 or 600 rupees.

Purchase of electric power from Pykara.

79. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the idea of purchasing electric power from Pykara has been given up;

(b) if so, what is the reason for so doing?

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